



BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
1-800-822-6228 – [WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV](http://WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV)

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
FOR THE *RICE SOLAR ENERGY POWER*  
*PLANT PROJECT*

DOCKET No. 09-AFC-10

**REVISED**

**[THIS NOTICE SUPERSEDES THE PRIOR NOTICE ISSUED ON DECEMBER 29, 2009]**

**NOTICE OF ENERGY COMMISSION INFORMATIONAL HEARING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING, AND PUBLIC SITE VISIT**

On October 21, 2009, the California Energy Commission received from Rice Solar Energy, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Solar Reserve, LLC, an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct, own, and operate a solar generating facility in unincorporated eastern Riverside County, California. The proposed Rice Solar Energy Project would use concentrating solar power technology, with a central receiver tower and an integrated liquid salt thermal storage system. The project site, which will comprise about 2,560 acres, is located on private property.

The project site is adjacent to State Route 62 (SR 62), which parallels a portion of the Arizona-California Railroad and the Colorado River Aqueduct, near the junction of SR 62 and Blythe-Midland Road. The proposed transmission line will follow a 10 mile path from the project site to an intercept point along the existing Western Area Power Administration Parker-Blythe transmission line and will cross privately owned land and land owned by the federal government and managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Chairman of the Commission has scheduled a Public Site Visit, Informational Hearing, and Environmental Scoping Meeting to discuss the proposed project as described below:

**MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010**

**Site Visit begins (bus leaves Blythe City Hall) at 1:15 p.m.**

**Public Informational Hearing/Scoping Meeting begins at 5:00 p.m.**

**Blythe City Hall Council Chambers  
235 N. Broadway  
Blythe, California 92225**

**(Map Attached)**

Members of the public are invited to participate in a tour of the proposed site. The Applicant will provide transportation to and from the project site. For reservations, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or 800-822-6228 or e-mail: [\[publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us). Please make your reservation on or before **12:00 Noon, January 19, 2010**, so that we can assure you a space. The attached agenda provides bus departure times and the start times of the informational hearings and scoping meetings.

**NOTE:** Site Visits & Informational Hearings for the Blythe Solar Power Project and Palen Solar Power Project, will also take place at Blythe City Hall on January 25, 2010. Please see the Notices issued separately for details about these projects and their respective Site Visits & Informational Hearings.

## **Background**

On or about October 21, 2009, the Energy Commission began review of the proposed Rice Solar Energy Project. The Energy Commission has exclusive jurisdiction to license this project and is considering the proposal under a twelve-month review process established under Public Resources Code section 25540.6. During the review period, the Energy Commission will determine whether the proposed project complies with applicable laws related to public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering requirements. The Informational Hearing scheduled by this Notice is sponsored by the Energy Commission to inform the public about the project and to invite public participation in the review process.

As the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications to construct and operate thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, in California. The Energy Commission facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines.

## **Project Description**

The Rice Solar Energy Project is a concentrating solar power facility proposed to be constructed on privately-owned land in an unincorporated area of eastern Riverside County, California. The project will have a nominal generating capacity of 150 megawatts (MW), and will be capable of delivering 450,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of renewable energy annually.

The project will use concentrating solar power technology consisting of a large field of mirrors (heliostats) that concentrate and focus the sun's energy onto a central receiver positioned on top of a tower. The project will feature thermal energy storage that allows solar energy to be captured throughout the day and retained in a liquid salt heat transfer fluid. For electricity generation, the hot liquid salt will be routed to a series of heat exchangers to produce steam. The steam will be used to generate electricity in a conventional steam turbine generator. An air-cooled condenser (dry-cooled technology) will be used to minimize water consumption.

The engineering and environmental details of the proposed project are contained in the AFC, which may be viewed at:

**<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ricesolar/documents/applicant/afc/index.php>**

Copies of the AFC are available at the local public agencies that are involved in the review process and at the following libraries: Parker Public Library, Palo Verde Valley District Library, and the Lake Tamarisk Library. Copies are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Eureka, Fresno, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. In addition, copies will be distributed to those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

### **Purpose of the Informational Hearing**

The power plant licensing process, which incorporates requirements equivalent to the environmental impact report process of CEQA, considers all relevant engineering and environmental aspects of the proposed project. The licensing review provides a public forum allowing the Applicant, Commission staff, governmental agencies, adjacent landowners, and members of the general public to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the project, and to propose changes, mitigation measures, and alternatives as necessary.

The Informational Hearing scheduled in this Notice provides an opportunity for members of the community in the project vicinity to obtain information, offer comments, and view the project site. The Applicant will explain plans for developing the project and the related facilities. Energy Commission staff will explain the administrative licensing process and Staff's role in reviewing the AFC.

### **Proposed Schedule and Issue Identification Report**

To assist participants in understanding the project, Applicant and Staff shall each file a proposed schedule for conducting the certification process, and Staff shall file an Issue Identification Report (Report) summarizing any potential issues. The proposed schedules and Staff's Report shall be filed **no later than 4 p.m., January 20, 2010.**

At the Informational Hearing, the parties shall indicate whether anticipated data responses would resolve issues of concern which may be raised in Staff's Report.

### **Public Adviser and Public Participation**

The Energy Commission Public Adviser is available to assist the public in participating in the application review process. For those individuals who require general information on how to participate, please contact the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or 800-822-6228, or e-mail: **[publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us)**.

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate in this event, contact Lourdes Quiroz no less than five days prior to the hearing at (916) 654-5146 or e-mail: [\[lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us).

## **Information**

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Kourtney Vaccaro, the Hearing Adviser, at (916) 654-4328, or e-mail: [\[kvaccaro@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:kvaccaro@energy.state.ca.us).

Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to John Kessler, Staff Project Manager, at (916) 654-4679, or e-mail: [\[jkessler@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:jkessler@energy.state.ca.us).

Media inquiries should be directed to the Office of Media and Public Communications at (916) 654-4989 or e-mail: [\[mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us).

Information regarding the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents pertaining to this proceeding, may be viewed on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at:

[\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ricesolar/index.html\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ricesolar/index.html).

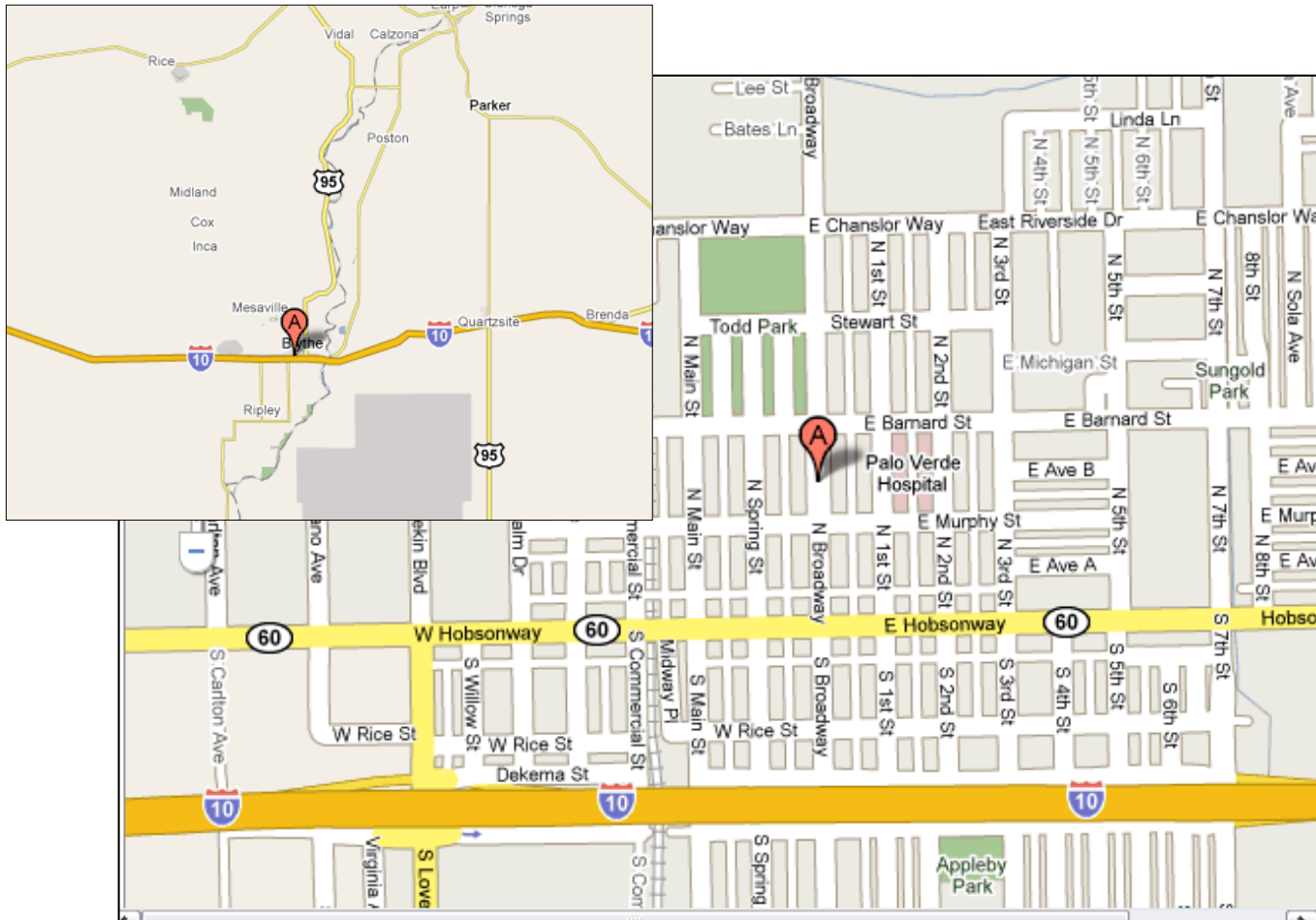
Dated: January 11, 2010, at Sacramento, California.



KAREN DOUGLAS  
Chairman

*Mailed to Lists: POS; 7386; 7387; 7388; 7389*

**Blythe City Hall Council Chambers  
235 N Broadway  
Blythe, CA 92225**



***Monday, January 25, 2010***

**Site Visit begins (bus leaves City Hall) at 1:15 p.m.**

**Public Informational Hearing/Scoping Meeting begins at 5:00 p.m.**



BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**AGENDA**

**RICE SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT  
BLYTHE SOLAR POWER PROJECT  
PALEN SOLAR POWER PROJECT**

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION INFORMATIONAL HEARINGS  
U. S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING  
MEETINGS  
AND  
PUBLIC SITE VISITS**

***MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010***

Blythe City Hall Council Chambers  
235 N. Broadway  
Blythe, California 92225

- 1:15 p.m.*** Rice Solar Energy Project site visit begins (bus leaves City Hall).
- 3:30 p.m.*** Blythe Solar Power Project and Palen Solar Power Project site visits begin (bus leaves City Hall).
- 5:00 p.m.*** All buses return to Blythe City Hall. Presentations and discussions concerning matters common to Blythe Solar Power Project, Palen Solar Power Project, and Rice Solar Energy Project.
- 7:00 p.m.*** Presentations and discussions regarding the Rice Solar Energy Project.
- 8:00 p.m.*** Presentations and discussions regarding the Blythe Solar Power Project and Palen Solar Power Project.